

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINAI 01730 271338Z
ACTION SSM-05

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FOR SSM

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN
SUBJECT: VISIT OF NBC NEWS TEAM TO SFM

1. NBC NEWS CORRESPONDENT PHILIP TILL, AND AN ISRAELI FILM
CREW CONSISTING OF CAMERAMAN PETER SELA, AND SOUNDMAN YOSHI MULLA,
ACCOMPANIED BY ISRAELI MAJOR HILEL ASHKENAZI, VISITED THE SFM BASECAM
P

ON 26 JULY 1978 FROM 0900 TO 1430 LT, IN ORDER TO HAVE FILM FOOTAGE
OF THE CAMP FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR NEWS BROADCASTS SHOULD SFM BE
CHOSEN AS A SITE FOR A CONTINUATION OF PEACE TALKS BETWEEN EGYPTIANS
AND ISRAELIS AT SOME FUTURE TIME. THIS NEWS TEAM HAD COMPILED
SIMILAR FOOTAGE A FEW DAYS EARLIER AT EL ARISH, WHICH HAS BEEN
MENTIONED AS A POSSIBLE FUTURE CONFERENCE SITE. AT ALL TIMES THE
NEWS TEAM WAS ACCOMPANIED BY LIAISON OFFICER RUSSEL SVEDA.

2. ALTHOUGH MR. TILL SPOKE INFORMALLY WITH THE SEVERAL US GOVERNMENT
AND E-SYSTEMS PERSONNEL HE ENCOUNTERED IN THE COURSE OF FILMING, THE
ONLY PERSON HE SOUGHT TO INTERVIEW ON CAMERA WAS DIRECTOR LEAMON
R. HUNT, AND THAT, HE SAID, PRINCIPALLY TO HAVE FILE FOOTAGE OF THE
DIRECTOR IN HIS OFFICE, MORE THAN TO DISCUSS ANY MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE

.
THE INTERVIEW LASTED ABOUT FIVE MINUTES AND WAS LARGELY A REPETITION
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PAGE 02 SINAI 01730 271338Z

OF PARTS OF THE STANDARD BRIEFING MR. TILL HAD RECEIVED EARLIER FROM
THE DIRECTOR ON SENSORS AND HOW SENSOR OPERATORS MIGHT DISTINGUISH
BETWEEN MOUNTED AND UNMOUNTED CAMELS, A POINT MR. TILL FOUND INTEREST
ING.

WHEN ASKED ABOUT SFM'S POTENTIAL AS A FUTURE CONFERENCE SITE, THE
DIRECTOR NOTED CERTAIN ADVANTAGES IT POSSESSED, MAINLY THE PROXIMITY
OF SECURE COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITIES FOR EACH OF THE PARTIES AT THE

EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI SURVEILLANCE SITES, AND OF COURSE FOR THE US SIDE
THROUGHOUT SFM'S OWN SETUP. HE ADDED THAT COMMERCIAL COMMUNICATIONS
FACILITIES FOR WHATEVER PRESS MIGHT COME WOULD POSE A MINOR PROBLEM.
THROUGHOUT, HE EMPHASIZED THE PRIMARY IMPORTANCE OF SFM'S CONTINUING
TO PERFORM MONITORING RESPONSIBILITIES, WHETHER OR NOT THE BASECAMP
WAS CHOSEN AT SOME FUTURE TIME AS A SITE FOR SOME INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE.

3. BESIDES FILMING THE INTERVIEW IN THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE, THE
NEWS TEAM FILMED A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE CAMP FROM A TELEVISION
WATCHTOWER, THE E-SYSTEMS COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS CENTER; CONFERENCE
ROOMS AND C&R GATE CAGE EXTERIOR IN THE GOVERNMENT OFFICES; THE
COMMUNITY CENTER (KITCHEN; CAFETERIA LINE; LUNCHTIME CROWD DINING;
EMPTY FILM THEATER); AND THE INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR OF ONE OF THE
E-SYSTEMS LIVING QUARTERS. MR TILL'S WRAP-UP, DELIVERED OUTSIDE
THE SFM GATE WITH THE BASECAMP ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDINGS AS A BACKDROP

,
CHARACTERIZED SFM AS "A NEUTRAL ZONE SANDWICHED IN BETWEEN THE
EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI ARMIES" AND A SUITABLE PLACE FOR A POSSIBLE
FUTURE CONFERENCE. ON DEPARTING, THE CREW TOOK SEVERAL LONG SHOTS
OF THE CAMP EN ROUTE TO CP BRAVO. AT NO TIME IN THE COURSE OF THE
DAY HAD MR. TILL SHOWN ANY INTEREST IN FILMING AN INTERVIEW WITH
ANYONE APART FROM THE DIRECTOR, OR IN DISCUSSING MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE
CONCERNING ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN AFFAIRS.

HUNT
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PAGE 03 SINAI 01730 271338Z

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NNN

Message Attributes

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